Disruption in Broadcast due to Fire in the Generator Room of AIR Delhi Station

423. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the broadcast of the All India Radio was disrupted for a longer time due to the fire in the generator room of the AIR Station, Delhi on the 8th January, 1989;

(b) whether this fire was due to the break down of power;

(c) if so, what were the other main reasons; and

(d) what steps are being taken to avoid such occurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) There was a breakdown of broadcast service from 1843 hrs. to 1847 hrs, 1848 hrs to 1905 hrs and 1915 hrs to 1921 hrs at AIR, Delhi on 8th January, 1989.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The rope wound to cover the exhaust pipe of the Diesel Generator had caught fire.

(d) Metal mesh is being provided in place of the rope.

Formulation of new strategy for Oilseeds

424. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government had formulated a new strategy for oilseeds;

(b) if so, whether in the new strategy State Governments were invited to participate actively; and

(c) if so, what are the main features of the proposed new strategy and to what extent it has helped in achieving the target of oilseeds in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes Sir. The Government of India have approved an integrated policy on oilseeds production, import, distribution and pricing for accelerating self-reliance.

(b) Some elements of this policy (like incentives and support to farmers to increase oilseeds production and distribution of edible oil at reasonable prices through the public distribution system) have been under implementation with active participation by the State Governments. The State Government's cooperation has been sought in implementing the new elements of the strategy, particularly market intervention by National Dairy Development Board to ensure incentive prices to farmers and reasonable prices for consumers.

(c) The integrated policy has the following important elements:—

- support to farmers with technology inputs, etc. to increase production;
- review of Public Distribution prices; and
- procurement of domestically produced oilseeds/edible oils by National Dairy Development Board soon after harvest at incentive prices for building a buffer stock for release in the market in the lean season, to maintain prices within a prescribed price band NDDB will also receive a part of the imported edible oils for this purpose.

A part of the policy which was under implementation has already started showing results. A record

oilseeds production of 155 lakh tonnes is expected during 1988-89; and this will help reduce import of edible oil to less than 50 per cent of the previous year's level.

Workshop on Planning Development and Administration of Metropolitan Region

425. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Urban problem in the country was not given adequate attention so far;

(b) whether a three day workshop on Planning Development and Administration of Metropolitan Region in India was organised by the Ministry of Urban Development; and

(c) if so, what were the decision taken in the Seminar and to what extent Government are likely to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Appropriate urban development plans are formulated and implemented by State Governments and Union Territories in accordance with their needs and prior ties out of their annual plan provisions.

(b) Yes, Sir; by the School of Planning and Architecture.

(c) Some of the important recommendations of the Workshop relate to regional approach in planning for the development of metropolitan cities, creation of Metropolitan Regional Planning Boards, adoption of such development strategies which combine minimum intervention with the acceptance of the pressures for growth in the metropolitan core, review of the policy on industrial location, unified, transport authorities strengthening of the local self government bodies, proper land use control system, use of remote sensing techniques to monitor physical growth and role of private sector in the process of urban development.

These recommendations of the workshop have been circulated to all the States/Union Territories.

Import of Foodgrains

426. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the annual imports of foodgrains in the country during the 7th five year plan;

(b) the amount of subsidy which Government had been paying every year in their distribution; and

(c) the subsidy paid in the last year of 6th five year plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) During the Seventh five year plan the Government imported a quantity of 20.11 lakh tonnes of wheat and 6.84 lakh tonnes of rice, in the year 1988-89.

(b) The accounts for 1988-89 will be finalised in due course. However, the subsidy on the distribution of the above quantity of imported foodgrains is estimated at about Rs. 336.68 crores.

(c) Does not arise as no imports were effected.

Special allotment of rice to Kerala

427. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special allotment of rice from the Central pool is likely to be given for Kerala in the coming months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?